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Accused Ex-Beret Says He Was Agent of CIA

FORT COLLINS, Colo., Sept. 16 (UPI)—A former Green Beret charged with attempted murder said today he visited a Libyan dissident last year under orders from the CIA and fired at him only in self-defense.

An interview aired on CBS News marked the first time Eugene Tafoya, 47, has agreed to talk about his involvement in the shooting last October of Faisal Zagallai.

Some authorities believe Tafoya was working for the Libyan government on a mission to silence dissidents of Col. Muammar Qaddafi's regime who are living in the United States.

Tafoya said he was actually working for the CIA when he went to Zagallai's apartment to deliver a message "not in any way connected with an assassination attempt." He did not say what the message was.

He said Zagallai reached for a gun and fired one shot at him before he shot back in self-defense. The Colorado State University graduate student, shot twice in the head at close range, lost sight in one eye and carries a .22-caliber slug in his palate.

Tafoya, in jail awaiting trial for attempted murder, said he applied to the CIA in May, 1976.

The CIA denies Tafoya ever was employed by the agency.

Tafoya admitted that he went to Libya to help former FBI agent Edwin Wilson train Libyan soldiers, but said he was also spying on Wilson and Libya at the time and was reporting his findings regularly to the CIA.